

CONFINED SPACE PROCEDURES

1. Purpose. This document emphasizes the procedures for safe entry and work within confined spaces.
2. Applicability. This document applies to all elements of the Portland District where confined spaces are located and employee entry is possible.

3 References.

Title 29, CFR, Part 1910 b. Title 29, CFR Part 1926 c. EM 385-1-1

4. Responsibilities.

a. Each activity, USACE, USACE contractor, and USACE facility shall maintain a written permit-required confined space program. All the required elements of the written program are outlined in Table 6-1, EM 385-1-1.

b. Area Resident/Project Engineers, and District Division and Branch Chiefs.

- (1) Administer the confined space program within their area of responsibility.
- (2) Maintain a current inventory of confined spaces.
- (3) Ensure all personnel working in or around confined spaces are protected from hazards and that they follow the requirements of the confined space permit system.
- (4) Appoint a Confined Space Coordinator (C SC) to oversee the confined space program. The CSC is appointed to ensure each area/project has a single POC for confined space entry issues. His/her appointment is by no means meant to supersede the chain of command or relieve supervisors of their responsibilities. Ensure that the CSC receives adequate training.

c. Supervisors.

- (1) Ensure only qualified and adequately trained employees are assigned tasks as entrants or attendants for confined space entry. The SOHO and the Resource Management Office (CENWP-RM) will provide assistance in obtaining training.
- (2) Only authorized entrants and attendants, which have been medically evaluated, will be allowed to work in confined space. They must have the ability to physically remove incapacitated personnel from the confined space during an emergency. They must have the ability to wear PPE, to include respirators.
- (3) Ensure either an in-house rescue team or outside rescue team will be able to respond to a request for rescue service.
- (4) Ensure proper equipment is provided and maintained if confined space entry is authorized.
- (5) Do not allow entry into a permit required confined space without an approved permit.
- (6) Ensure contractors are provided with all available information on hazards in or around a permit required confined space. Include safety rules and emergency procedures the contractor must be aware of to protect his/her employees.

d. SOHO.

- (1) Implement and monitor the district confined space program.
- (2) Evaluate and inventory confined spaces, as requested.
- (3) Provide training or assistance in obtaining training for CSC, supervisors, entrants and attendants.
- (4) Provide advice in the purchase, use and maintenance of equipment including testing, monitoring, communication and PPE.
- (5) Provide technical assistance.

e. Other Duties. Duties of the following personnel are outlined in EM 385-1-1.

- (1) Authorized Entrant
- (2) Attendant
- (3) Entry Supervisor
- (4) Members of Rescue and Emergency Teams

5. Training. Entrants, Attendants and Supervisors shall receive specific training as outlined in Table 6-2, EM 385-1-1.

6. Definitions. Refer to EM 385-1-1 and Title 29, CFR, Part 1910.146, for definitions.